REMARKS

In the Office Action dated August 7, 2006, claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2; claims 1, 17, 19, and 20 were rejected under § 101; and claims 1-21 were rejected under § 102 over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0042785 (Walker).

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2

The claims were rejected due to confusion of the following phrases: "eponym into prefix-suffix"; "tallying matches"; and "masks." Note that these phrases appear to be found only in claim 1, although "masks" does appear in other claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to improve its form. The term "eponym" is discussed in ¶[0024] of the present Specification, with an ordinary definition of "eponym" being "word or name derived from the name of a person" (*see* attached Compact Oxford English Dictionary).[1] The term "tally" is discussed in ¶¶ [0019]-[0022] and [0033]-[0036] of the present Specification.

The term "mask" is discussed ¶ [0013] of the present Specification. As explained in this paragraph of the Specification, in accordance with some embodiments, masks are rules for ignoring dirty data portions of a data field that can be used to effect clean-up of contaminated data by removing variable data segments.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are not indefinite. Therefore, withdrawal of the § 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1, 17, 19, and 20 were rejected as not being directed to statutory subject matter. The claims have been amended to address the § 101 rejection. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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[1] Although Applicant has attached a dictionary definition for the term "eponym" for discussion purposes, note that the definition of "eponym" should not be limited to this definition.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

All claims were rejected as being anticipated by Walker. .

Walker describes various techniques to transfer funds or credit lines from a transferor to a transferee. *See* Walker, ¶ [0055]. Although the Office Action cited generally to ¶¶ [0063]-[0108] of Walker as disclosing data records, the Office Action pointed specifically to Fig. 17 of Walker as disclosing the various elements of claim 1. 8/7/2006 Office Action at 4-5. Fig. 17 of Walker depicts a customer accounts database that holds data for each customer. Walker, ¶ [0097]. This database is accessed by the transferor's credit card issuer to determine whether a transferor's credit card is valid. Walker, ¶ [0100]. The card credit issuer also checks the customer accounts database to determine whether there is available credit. *Id.*

Although the customer accounts database depicted in Fig. 17 of Walker (and other like customer account databases depicted and described elsewhere in Walker) store data records, the system of Walker clearly does not perform the tasks recited in claim 1. Claim 1 recites a method that includes the following: for each data record, splitting each entity eponym data field into a corresponding prefix-suffix combination, and for each prefix, a processor computing a tally of distinct entity locations, and for each prefix and entity location combination, the processor computing a tally of distinct suffixes. A method according to claim 1 also includes setting a threshold boundary where a prefix is defined as one of the masks when one or more of the tallies are indicative of different eponyms signifying a particular entity, where the mask enables a particular data record to be matched to the particular entity by ignoring a portion of the particular data record.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by Walker.

The remaining independent claims are also not disclosed by Walker for similar reasons, as Walker fails to disclose the tasks recited in each of the remaining independent claims 11, 17, and 19. Specifically, with respect to claim 11, Walker fails to disclose a method that comprises selecting a primary identifier data field and a secondary identifier data field for each data packet, and for all data packets having a non-unique primary identifier data field, using *heuristic procedures* for *splitting* each primary identifier data into at least one prefix-suffix combination; for each prefix, counting *first, second, and third tallies*, as recited in claim 11; based on the first

tally, the second tally, and the third tally, generating *masks representative of prefixes applicable to the data packets* having a non-unique primary identifier data field such that application of the masks assigns data packets having a non-unique primary identifier data field to associated common entities defined thereby.

With respect to independent claim 17, Walker fails to disclose selecting unique representative samples of received transactions; for each of the samples, dissecting each name field into a corresponding prefix and suffix combination, and for each derived prefix and each another identifier combination, counting a number of distinct suffixes and storing a tally therefor; and generating a mask from a specific prefix when the specified prefix meets a predefined decision criteria which is a function of a tally, where the mask is applicable to the log of transactions to enable at least some of the data strings to be matched to a particular entity name by ignoring variable portions of the data strings.

With respect to independent claim 19, Walker fails to disclose extracting a data pair from each of the records; for each data pair, splitting each entity identification field into a corresponding prefix-suffix combination; for each prefix, computing a tally of distinct entity locations; for each prefix and entity location field combination, computing a tally of distinct suffixes therefor; and setting a threshold boundary where a prefix is defined as one of the masks when one or more of the tallies is indicative of different entity identification strings in entity identification fields signifying a single one of the entities.

Dependent claims, including newly added dependent claims 22-25, are allowable for at least the same reasons as corresponding independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, all claims are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 (200308733-1).

Respectfully submitted,

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eponym

/epp\u0259nim/

• **noun 1** a word or name derived from the name of a person.
2 a person after whom a discovery, invention, place, etc. is
named.

- **Ask Tl**
- **Better**
- **World**
- **Game:**
- **Global**
- **Foreig**

→ **AskOxf**
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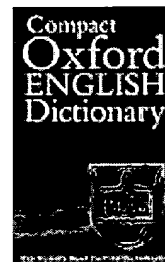Dictionary

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